

In the Specification

Kindly amend first paragraph, Lines 5-10, on Page 1 as follows:

TECHNICAL FIELD

~~The present invention~~ This disclosure relates to a method for joining pipe-shaped articles, where pipe-shaped articles, comprising resin members, are welded to each other directly or through a fitting or flange, comprising a resin member, by irradiated laser light.

Kindly amend third paragraph, Lines 12-17 on Page 2 as follows:

~~An object of the present invention is to solve these problems and~~ Thus, it could be advantageous to provide a method for joining pipe-shaped articles, where pipe-shaped articles comprising a resin member can be laser-welded and strongly joined together, directly or through a fitting or flange, comprising a resin member, by irradiated laser light.

Kindly amend fourth paragraph, Lines 19-21 on Page 2 as follows:

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION SUMMARY

~~In order to achieve the above-described object, the present invention provides~~ We provide the followings: following:

Kindly amend last paragraph, Lines 35-38 on Page 6 as follows:

Figs. 6 to 8 each is a schematic view showing the flange joining mode ~~in the present invention~~ and the shape of the flange used.

Kindly amend second paragraph, Lines 4-24 on Page 7 as follows:

MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION DETAILED DESCRIPTION

~~The present invention is~~ We provide a method for joining pipe-shaped articles comprising butting pipe-shaped articles comprising a resin member by abutting respective end-parts thereof together directly or through a flange comprising a resin member or by inserting the end parts of the

pipe-shaped articles into a fitting comprising a resin member, or, in the abutment or insertion, while disposing a laser light absorber between ends parts of the pipe-shaped articles or between the end part(s) of the pipe-shaped article(s) and the flange or fitting; at least one end part of the pipe-shaped article or the flange or fitting comprising a resin member having transparency to laser light; at least one end part of the pipe-shaped article or the flange, fitting or laser light absorber comprising a resin member having absorbency for laser light; irradiating laser light on a portion contacted by the end part(s) of the pipe-shaped article(s), the flange, the fitting and/or the laser light absorber, thereby effecting laser-welding between the contacting portions.

Kindly amend fourth paragraph, Lines 30-34 on Page 10 as follows:

Fig. 3 shows an example of this embodiment, where 3' and 4' are a pipe-shaped article comprising a resin member having weak absorbency for laser light, and 5' is a fitting comprising a resin member having weak absorbency for laser light.

Kindly amend third paragraph, Lines 30-34 on Page 13 as follows:

In this method which is an embodiment similar to the structure of Fig. 6, the pipe-shaped articles comprise a resin member having absorbency for laser light, the flange comprises a resin member having transparency to laser light, and the laser light is irradiated from the flange side.

Kindly amend first paragraph, Lines 13-16 on Page 15 as follows:

This method is similar to the embodiment structure of Fig. 8, but the end parts are laser-welded by irradiating the laser light not from the end part side 3 or 4 of the pipe-shaped article but from the flange 6 side.

Kindly amend second paragraph, Lines 14-17 on Page 20 as follows:

Resin Member

In the present invention, the The pipe-shaped articles, fitting and flange each comprises a

resin member having absorbance or transparency to laser light.

Kindly amend fourth paragraph, Lines 23-29 on Page 22 as follows:

~~In the present invention, the~~ The colorant having absorbency for laser light may be any material as long as it has such a property, but specific examples thereof include inorganic colorants such as carbon black and composite oxide-based pigment, and organic colorants such as phthalocyanine-based pigment and polymethine-based pigment.

Kindly amend fifth paragraph, Lines 28-31 on Page 23 as follows:

~~In the present invention, a~~ A resin member having weak absorbency for laser light may also be used as the resin member having transparency to laser light.

Kindly amend fourth paragraph, Lines 21-36 on Page 27 as follows:

~~In the present invention, the~~ The coupler comprising a resin member having weak absorbency for laser light may be constituted by an inner layer comprising a resin member in which an additive or the like having weak absorbency for laser light is blended in the resin, and an outer layer comprising a resin member not containing an additive or the like having weak absorbency for laser light. The thickness of the inner layer is preferably 1/2 or less of the entire fitting thickness. By constituting the multilayer construction, the laser energy loss due to the weakly absorptive material can be decreased and the required laser light output can be made small, so that a compact small semiconductor laser can be selected and an operation at a higher scanning rate can be realized. Thus, this construction is advantageous in view of apparatus and speed.

Kindly amend fifth paragraph, Lines 26-30 on Page 29 as follows:

(Use)

The joining method ~~of the present invention~~ can be applied to a fuel pipe for automobiles, an air brake pipe for automobiles, a medical liquid-transporting pipe, a fuel gas-supplying or

transporting pipe, or the like.

Kindly amend last paragraph, Lines 32-34 on Page 29 as follows:

EXAMPLES

~~The present invention is~~ Our methods are described below by referring to Examples.

Kindly amend fifth paragraph, Lines 29-32 on Page 43 as follows:

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

~~According to the present invention, pipe-shaped~~ Pipe-shaped articles comprising a resin member can be laser-welded and strongly joined together directly or through a fitting or flange by irradiating laser light.

Kindly amend paragraph spanning Pages 43, Lines 33-37 and Page 44, Lines 1-4 as follows:

In the laser welding method ~~of the present invention~~, the problems of dripping and cost and the concern about the environment and safety due to a strong solvent, which are encountered in conventional heat welding methods, can be overcome and also, the joining can be achieved with a high joining strength as compared with that obtained by using a solvent adhesive, so that this method can be suitably used for gas pipes and the like.